ESOL – Adjectives Ending in –ed and –ing

This companion document covers the same learning as the interactive session, but in a different way so as to be more accessible for learners with sight impairments. Because of this, it does not follow a slide structure.

Welcome

Welcome to this session on adjectives ending in -ed and -ing.

By the end of this session, you will understand:

* That adjectives have different endings
* That a different ending can change an adjective's meaning
* How to use adjectives ending in –ed and –ing

Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe nouns. An adjective tells us something about a person, place or thing.

Here are some examples:

1. It was a boring book.

The adjective ‘boring’ tells us how good the book was.

2. She wore a blue hat.

The adjective ‘blue’ tells us the colour of the hat.

3. The man had curly hair.

The adjective ‘curly’ tells us what the man’s hair looked like.

Adjective endings

There are many adjectives that end in –ed and –ing.

For example:

Interest**ed** is an adjective.

Interest**ing** is an adjective.

These two adjectives mean different things. We can work out the difference from the ending.

Adjectives ending in –ed describe a feeling or emotion.

Adjectives ending in –ing describe a characteristic of a person, place, or thing.

There are many other endings for adjectives, but in this document, we will be learning about these two.

Adjectives ending in -ed and -ing

Let’s look at some examples to understanding the difference between adjectives ending in –eg and adjectives ending in –ing.

Adjectives ending in –ed describe a feeling or emotion. Only people or animals have feelings and emotions.

For example:

My brother is bor**ed**.

This sentence means that my brother feels bored.

Adjectives ending in –ing describe a characteristic of a person, place, or thing.

For example:

My brother is bor**ing**.

This sentence means that my brother is a boring person.

Some more examples

The best way to understand the difference between these adjectives, is to look at examples.

Example 1:

My teacher is confus**ed**.

This means my teacher doesn’t understand something. My teacher is feeling confus**ed**.

My teacher is confus**ing**.

This means my teacher causes me to feel confused. It is a characteristic of my teacher to be confus**ing**.

Example 2:

The man is annoy**ed**.

This means the man is feeling annoy**ed**.

The man is annoy**ing**.

This means that the man is an annoy**ing** person.

Understanding what adjectives mean

Have a look at this sentence. What does it mean? Look at the adjective carefully to see what it is telling us.

*My flight was tiring.*

Do you think it means "my flight felt tired" or "the flight caused me to feel tired"?

Because the adjective ends in **–ing**, it must describe a characteristic of something. It means "the flight caused me to feel tired".

Let’s look at another example:

*The boy was frightened by the dog.*

Does it mean "the boy was a frightening person", or "the boy felt frightened"?

Because the adjective ends in -ed, it must describe a feeling or emotion. So, it means "the boy felt frightened".

Knowledge checks

Let’s check what we’ve learned throughout the session.

Check 1:

Read the sentence below, then select the word should you use to fill in the blank.

I am feeling really [blank]. I will go to bed.

1. Tired
2. Tiring

Answer: The sentence should read, “I am feeling really **tired**. I will go to bed.”

Check 2:

Which of the following words are adjectives? Select all that apply.

1. Relax
2. Relaxed
3. Relaxing

Answer: The correct answers are **b** and **c**. **Relaxed** and **relaxing** are adjectives. They are words used to tell us something about a person, place, or thing. Relax is a verb. It is not an adjective.

Check 3:

Using the words below, complete the following sentence:

An adjective is a word that describes a [blank].

1. Verb
2. Noun

Answer: The correct answer is **b**. An adjective is a word that describes a noun.

Summary

Well done. You have completed this session on adjectives ending in -ed and -ing

You should now:

* That adjectives have different endings
* That a different ending can change an adjective's meaning
* How to use adjectives ending in –ed and –ing

If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, please speak to your tutor for more help.